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AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 23 September 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the position of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on your report "An Agenda for Development" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 92.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Position on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Development" of the Government of Yugoslavia

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia welcomes the report "An Agenda for Development" of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/48/935) and views it as an important step in formulating the platform for the activities of the international community in overcoming the major problem at the threshold of the twenty-first century, the problem of poverty and underdevelopment of a large portion of mankind and further widening of the gap between the developed and underdeveloped as a most serious threat to world peace and security. Well-formulated and well-focused conclusions and recommendations of the Agenda for Development, with additional elaboration and concretization in the process of deliberations and adoption, may serve as a solid basis for efficient engagement in resolving development problems through mechanisms, instruments and activities of the international community and the United Nations as its universal and irreplaceable forum.

Economic growth is rightfully seen as an engine of development as a whole and should be accorded priority in the new development vision. Its satisfactory realization implies, inter alia, the parallel existence of development-oriented and market-based economic policies, as well as a favourable international economic climate as a precondition for the development of national economies. The overriding cause of development problems and hardships in developing countries is exactly the external unfavourable economic environment (barriers to market access, unfavourable terms of trade, debts and their servicing, unsatisfactory financial flows, restrictive access to technologies and other well-known impediments to development). Consequently, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia supports the conclusions and recommendations from the Agenda that accord a greater role to the United Nations system and multilateral cooperation in this area in order to ensure an adequate international economic climate.

The high level of interrelation between economic growth at the global level is a well-known factor: the successful and stable growth of developed economies favourably affects the growth and development of the underdeveloped and vice versa. Proceeding from that premise, as well as from positive experiences in the wake of the disappearance of global confrontations at a political level, it is necessary that the Agenda's adoption mark an end to all forms of confrontation of the developed and underdeveloped in the interest of consultations, coordination, cooperation and assistance. In such conditions, the cooperation between the developed and developing would be mutually useful and necessary as an instrument of world development as a whole, whereas the efficiency of the engagement of the United Nations system in the field of development would increase substantially.

2. While the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia essentially supports the conclusions and assessments of the Agenda for Development, particularly the comprehensive and analytic method highlighting the crucial

preconditions of development such as peace, economy, environment, social dimension and democracy, it would like to point to some issues that have not been adequately addressed in the Agenda though they represent important factors of development

In the framework of the thoroughly elaborated five major conditions or dimensions of development and successful presentation of their causal interaction and interlinkage, in order to be comprehensive, the Agenda for Development would have to contain an analysis of an acute problem faced regrettably by a number of only developing countries, namely, the sanctions imposed by the Security Council or individual countries in order to achieve vaguely defined goals. The relation between sanctions and development therefore has to find its place in such a report, not just be mentioned indirectly in a totally different context without adequate elaboration (para. 143). The crippling effects of the sanctions on development, viewed in the broadest sense, in many ways equal those caused by war devastation. Therefore, it would seem appropriate that a table of countries according to their level of development be supplemented with the category "countries against which sanctions have been applied" as has been done with the category of countries affected by conflict in paragraph 16 of the Agenda.

Uncritical imposition, perpetuation and threat of sanctions is increasingly present as a phenomenon in international relations. There is a realistic danger that sanctions will become a highly undesirable instrument in the process of establishing a new world order, with extremely negative consequences for development, peace, democracy, humanity and other vital goals of the international community in the countries directly affected by the sanctions, as well as neighbouring and other countries.

The goals sought to be achieved by sanctions and formal reasons for their impositions are, as a rule, of doubtful character and limited to the assessments and interests of a narrow circle of influential countries. It is often forgotten, however, that the sanctions have never been successful in achieving the goal for which they were allegedly imposed. It is also forgotten that the consequences of the sanctions, which affect whole regions, return as a boomerang to the international community through enormous increases of the resources and efforts that need to be invested to alleviate the newly created situations. Humanitarian and social hardships, tensions and threats in the countries hit by the sanctions require, as a rule, emergency interventions that necessarily come at the expense of engagement and assistance where development problems and poverty are historically conditioned.

As a country that suffers from unjust sanctions that have been kept in place without any justification, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia can provide telling examples on the character and scope of the devastating effects of the sanctions on development. Industrial output in 1993 fell to two fifths compared with the previous period, current expenditures have been halved and investment expenditures fell to one fifth compared with the period before the sanctions were imposed (1990). The whole system and network of institutions of social welfare, education and environment control, with often tragic consequences have been threatened or ground to a standstill (inter alia, mortality rates have increased, particularly among the children and elderly). All programmes of

scientific, technological and technical cooperation have been suspended and the normal flow of information has been blocked. Average income in 1993 dropped to the levels of 25 years ago and likewise the country's overall development has been reversed. So far direct losses in the economy and otherwise are estimated at $45 billion, with projections that in the next decade they will total $150 billion. The losses sustained by the neighbouring countries are estimated at tens of billions of dollars, many of which are transit countries and facing substantial development problems themselves. It is extremely important that the Agenda for Development provide an answer whether and how those cases and the consequences of the sanctions should be incorporated into its spirit and goals.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is convinced that if the Agenda for Development opted against sanctions in general, particularly against their uncritical imposition and perpetuation, that would contribute to this document's becoming a true reflection of real conditions and hardships affecting development and consequently ensure more successful resolution of the development problems in the world.

3. In conditions of lack of satisfactory global coordination of national economic policies and other relevant development factors that should be reached by long-term activities, the role of regional economic linking and cooperation in development is of extreme importance, as has been set out in paragraph 146 of the Agenda for Development.

In addition to the overwhelming contribution to economies of the countries engaged in such cooperation, it is a fact that other development preconditions as well (peace, understanding, confidence, movement of people, etc.) develop more favourably in cases where regional economic integrations exist and function effectively. Quite contrary is the case where such cooperation and linking is missing or is insufficient, such as in the Balkan peninsula, where the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is situated.

In view of this, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that the Agenda for Development, in the framework of deliberations of basic dimensions of development, should accord more attention to this issue. In addition to the favourable assessment, greater and more direct support should be given to the promotion of the activities of existing and the setting up of new regional economic groups. In that context, it is important that the international community solicit assistance and support to development through regional economic groups and projects at that level, at the expense of direct assistance to countries that have not been included in such cooperation for subjective reasons.

4. In the end, reaffirming its unreserved commitment towards the United Nations system and its irreplaceable role at the international level, which by presenting and adopting the Agenda for Development becomes an ever more universal forum of the international community, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expresses the need for the entire engagement of the United Nations in resolving development problems to be ensured more transparency

and efficiency, with full respect for the goals and principles of the Charter and all characteristics of the position and activities of the United Nations set out in paragraph 14 of the Agenda.